REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, and 20, of which claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 15, and 20 are independent. No claims are being added or cancelled.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus provided with a printer driver and comprising finishing command setting means which can set a finishing command to a printer so as to rotation-sort-output or offset-output document data, layout setting means for setting a print layout of the document data, counting means for counting the number of physical sheets to which the document data of one copy whose output is desired is allocated, print instructing means for instructing execution of printing and spooling means for spooling the document data as intermediate data of a data format different from that of the document data. The invention is characterized in that the finishing command setting means sets the finishing command and the layout setting means sets the print layout on a print setting screen of the printer driver, wherein the finishing command setting means can set an automatic mode in which the finishing command is left to the decision of the printer driver and wherein the layout setting means sets the number of logical pages to be allocated to one physical sheet and a layout order of the logical pages on the physical sheet. When the automatic mode is set, the finishing command setting means disables the finishing command if the counting via the counting means shows that the document data of one copy is printed onto one physical sheet such that the rotation sort output or the offset output is not performed, and enables the finishing command if the counting by the counting means shows that the document data of one copy is printed onto two or more physical sheets, such that the rotation sort output or the offset output is performed.

Claim 1 has been further amended to more clearly recite that the finishing command is selected from among an enable mode, a disable mode, and an automatic mode. In addition, Applicant has more positively recited that the finishing command setting means sets the automatic mode in which the finishing command is left to the decision of the printer driver.

Independent claim 5 is directed to a print data generating method and claim 10 is directed to a computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a program. Each incorporates the salient features of claim 1 and is therefore respectfully submitted to be distinguishable over the art for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 11 is directed to an information processing apparatus provided with a printer driver and comprising finishing command setting means which can set a finishing command to a printer so as to rotation-sort-output or offset-output document data, layout setting means for setting a print layout of the document data, a user interface, provided by the printer driver, on which a user activates the finishing command setting means to set the finishing command and the layout setting means to set the print layout, and counting means for counting the number of physical sheets to which the document data of one copy whose output is desired is allocated. The invention is characterized in that the finishing command setting means can set the finishing command in an enabled state or in a disabled state, wherein the layout setting means sets the number of logical pages to be allocated to one physical sheet and a layout order of the logical page is on the physical sheet and wherein when the finishing command is set in the enabled state and the counting shows that the document data of one copy is printed onto one physical sheet, the finishing command is changed from the enabled state to the disabled state.

Independent claim 11 has been further amended to more clearly recite now that the user interface is a user interface menu screen.

Independent claims 16 and 20 are directed to print data generating method and a computer-readable recording means, respectively, and each incorporates the salient features discussed above with respect to claim 11. Accordingly, each of claims 15 and 20 are patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 11.

Independent claims 1, 5, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stone et al. in view of Kondo et al. Independent claims 11, 15, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above art, and further in view of Kremers et al. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Stone et al. and Kremers et al. have been discussed at length in the prior response and that discussion is incorporated herein by reference. Applicant submits, for those and the following reasons, neither piece of prior art renders the claims of the above application unpatentable.

Stone et al. illustrates page placement, offset setting in any combination on the front and back side of a sheet in N-up printing. Stone et al. recites that a print system manager 3 is a system component which transforms data and resource objects into a format suitable for a specific printer (column 3, lines 53-59; column 4, lines 15-25), and that a printer controller 5 analyzes the data and resource objects, forms bit mapped sheet images and outputs the images to a print system engine 7 (column 4, lines 15-44).

Kremers et al. illustrates a selectable sheet offset apparatus in which successive stacks of uncollated copy sheets may be offset from one another, and successive stacks of collated copy sheets are inhibited from being offset from one another in the finishing station (column 7, lines 43-48). The stacks of collated copy sheets are aligned upwardly on the tray, while the stacks of uncollated copy sheets are offset. Kremers et al. also shows a no-offset key 126 that is actuated by the operator to inhibit the offset.

Kondo et al. is directed to an image forming apparatus that receives image data from an external computer via an external I/F processing portion 4 as shown in Fig. 5 (column 7, lines 9-13). The apparatus notifies the computer of the state of a printer portion 2 and a reader portion 1 and receives print data from the computer (column 8, lines 21-36). The apparatus stores PDL image received from the computer in a personal box area 801 (column 11, lines 32 to column 12, line 2).

Kondo et al. teaches a sorting function. When an original is stacked on an automatic original feeding device 6, the sorting function is automatically turned on (column 12, lines 47-51). Then, the number of sheets per one copy is judged in accordance with a table 275 of Fig. 10 (column 13, lines 10-16). If the number of sheets per one copy becomes two or more, the shift function is turned on, and if the number becomes one, the shift function is turned off (column 13, lines 19-22). As appears evident from Figs. 11A and 11B, Kondo et al. turns on the shift function if the number of sheets is more than two and turns off the shift function if the number of sheets is one.

In the outstanding Official Action it is suggested that Kondo et al. teaches a printer driver. Kondo et al., however, fails to teach the print setting screen of the printer driver

(Fig. 5 of the present invention). Kondo et al. also fails to teach or suggest setting the finishing command, setting the print layout, or setting the number of logical pages to be allocated to one physical sheet on the print setting menu screen of the printer driver.

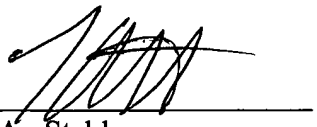
Accordingly, any combinations of Kondo et al. with Stone et al. and Kremers et al. cannot teach or suggest the claimed invention which requires setting the finishing command, the print layout or the number of logical pages on the print setting menu screen of the printer driver provided in the information processing apparatus. The applied art also fails to teach or suggest that the finishing command can be selected from among an enable mode, a disable mode and an automatic mode (claims 1, 5 and 10) or from an enabled state and a disabled state (claims 11, 15 and 20), or that the finishing is executed in accordance with the selected finishing command for the printing on one sheet.

For the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the independent claims is distinguishable over the applied art of record. The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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